

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ARA-06
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
/105 W

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R 311700Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6923
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A (DECONTROL 31 JAN 1979)
TAGS: SREF, PBOR, PFOR, PORC, UN , SS, MR
SUBJECT: UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES VISITS MAURITANIA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, PRINCE SADDURDIN AGA KHAN, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT (RIZVI), UNHCR REGIONAL DIRECTOR FORM DAKAR, AND PRINCESS CATHERINE, ARRIVED AT NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT EVENING JANUARY 27 AND LAUNCHED IMMEDIATELY INTO VERY FULL TWO-DAY SCHEDULE OF WORKING SESSIONS WITH MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, PRESIDENCY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF JUDICIAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS YEDALI OULD CHEIKH, MINISTER STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAMD OULD MOUKNASS, MFA DIRECTION INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AMBASSADOR AHMAD OULD MENEYA, GIRM UN PERMREP MOULAYE EL HASSAN, AND RED CRESCENT PRESIDENT MADAME SALL. DINNERS OFFERED BY PRESIDENT AND MOUKNASS WERE WORKING MEALS ATTENDED ONLY BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES WHO WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN VISIT. COMMISSIONER AND HIS PARTY DEPARTED BY ROAD FOR DAKAR AFTERNOON JANUARY 29.

2. COMMISSIONER DESCRIBED PURPOSE AND RESULTS OF HIS VISIT IN INTERVIEW ACCORDED RADIO MAURITANIE REPORTERS WHICH CHAAB, GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED DAILY, FRONTPAGED

JANUARY 31. AFTER NOTING HE HAD COME TO NOUAKCHAOTT"IN THE FRAMEWORK OF HIS HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES" IN RESPONSE TO GIRM INVITATION, COMMISSIONER DECLARED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GIRM OFFICIALS HAD BEEN "DETAILED AND FRUITFUL" AND HIS EXCHANGES OF VIEW WITH PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAD BEEN "CORDIAL", "FRANK", AND "VERY USEFUL". "I HAD OCCASION TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MY OFFICE'S PROGRAM OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN TINDOUF AREA"PLUS "COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE WHICH UN SYG HAS ASSIGNED ME". " AT SAME TIME MY CONVERSATIONS HAVE PERMITTED ME TO UNDERSTAND BETTER THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF GIRM. DISCUSSIONS DEALT NATURALLY WITH APPEAL LAUNCHED BY MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN GOVERNMENTS JULY 23, 1976 INVITING SAHARANS TO RETURN HOME . THIS IS ENTIRELY NORMAL, SINCE REPATRIATION FREELY CONSENTED TO IS ONE OF PRINCIPAL SOLUTIONS TO REFUGEE PROBLEMS ENVISAGED BY STATUTE OF HIGH COMMISSION." "I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT MY VISIT TO MAURITANIA, LIKE MY EARLIER VISIT TO MOROCCO, HAS SERVED TO REINFORCE MY HOPE THAT WITH THE GOODWILL OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR MY OFFICE TO PURSUE ITS EFFORTS IN ORDER NOT ONLY TO RELIEVE HUMAN SUFFERING BUT ALSO TO PROMOTE A RAPID AND DURABLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS WHICH PREOCCUPY US, NOTABLY BY THE REPATRIATION FREELY CONSENTED TO BY THE UPROOTED POPULATIONS OF WESTERN SAHARA." COMMISSIONER CONCLUDED INTERVIEW BY THANKING GIRM FOR WARM WELCOME AND FOR ITS "UNDERSTANDING OF HUMANITARIAN MISSION OF MY OFFICE".

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3. ACCORDING TO UN RESREP, AGA KHAN CAREFULLY KEPT DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF SAHARA REFUGEE PROBLEM. ECHOING DISCUSSIONS WERE CANDID, CORDIAL AND USEFUL, RESREP DECLARED COMMISSIONER EXPECTED TO BE RETURNING TO NOUAKCHOTT IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE FOR FOLLOW-ON MEETINGS WITH GIRM OFFICIALS. AGA KHAN IS SCHEDULED TO MEET PRESIDENT SENGHOR IN DAKAR; ROAD TRIP, VISIT TO BIRD SANCTUARY, OVERNIGHT VISIT TO ST. LOUIS, AND MONDAY P.M.ARRIVAL DAKAR WERE DECIDED UPON TO PASS TIME UNTIL SENGHOR WAS AVAILABLE. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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